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THE  
PETITION  
OF  
BOTH HOUSES  
OF  
PARLIAMENT

TO  
His Maiefty,



Concerning His intended going to IRELAND.

With six Reasons, or Motives, to dissawde Him  
from going thither. Presented to his Majestic at  
Yorke. April 18. 1642.

Printed by order of Parliament.

*Hen. Elsing, Cler. Com. D. Parl.*

Whereunto is added his Majesties Answer to the same,  
sent the 23. of April 1642.

Also another Message sent to the house of Peeres the same time,  
Concerning a Printed Paper, lately Published.

LONDON,

Printed for Iohn Wright. 1642.

May it please Your Majesty :



Our Majesties most loyall and faithfull Subjects, the Lords and Commons in Parliament, have duly considered the Message received from your Majesty concerning your purpose of going into *Ireland* in your own Person, to prosecute the war there with the bodies of your English Subjects, leavied, transported, and maintained at their charge ; which you are pleased to propound to us, not as a matter wherein your Majesty desires the advice of your Parliament, but as already firmly resolved on, and forthwith to be put in execution, by granting out Commissions for the levying of 2000 Foot, and 200 Horse, for a Guard for your Person when you shall come into that Kingdome; Wherein wee cannot choose but with all reverence and humility to your Majesty, observe, That you have declined your great Councell, the Parliament, and varied from the usuall course of your Royall Predecessors, that a businesse of so great importance, concerning the peace and safety of all your Subjects, and wherein they have a speciall interest by your Majesties promise, and by those great sums which they have disbursed, and for which they stand engaged, should bee concluded and undertaken without their advice : Whereupon wee hold it our duty to declare, That if at this time your Majesty shall goe into *Ireland*, you will very much endanger the safety of your Royall Person and Kingdome, and of all other States professing the Protestant Religion in Christendome, and make way to that cruell and bloody designe of the Papists every where, to root out and destroy the Reformed Religion, as the Irish Papists have in a great part already effected in that Kingdome, and in all likely hood would quickly be attempted in other places, if the consideration of the strength and union of the two Nations of *England* and *Scotland* did not much hinder and discourage the execution of any such designe ; And that we may manifest unto your Majesty the danger and misery which such a journey and enterprise would produce, we present to your Majesty the Reasons of this our humble Opinion and Advice.

1. Your Royall Person will be subject, not onely to the casualty of War, but to secret practices and conspiracies, especially your Majesty continuing your profession to maintaine the Protestant Religion in that Kingdome, which the Papists are generally bound by their vow to extirpate.

2. It will exceedingly encourage the rebels, who doe generally professe



professe and declare, That your Majesty doth favour and allow their proceedings, and that this insurrection was undertaken by the Warrant of your Commission ; and it will make good their expectation of great advantage by your Majesties Presence at this time of so much distraction in this Kingdome, whereby they may hope wee shall be disabled to supply the War there, especially there appearing lesse necessity of your Majesties Journey at this time, by reason of the manifold successes which God hath given against them.

3. It will much hinder and impair the meanes whereby this War is to be supported, and increase the charge of it, and in both these respects, make it more insupportable to your Subjects ; And this wee can confidently affirme, because many of the Adventurers, who have already subscribed, doe upon the knowledge of your Majesties intentions, declare their resolution not to pay in their money, and others very willing to have subscribed, do now professe the contrary.

4. Your Majesties absence must necessarily very much interrupt the proceedings of Parliament, and deprive your Subjects of the benefit of those further Acts of Grace, and Justice, which wee shall humbly expect from your Majesty, for the establishing of perfect Union, and mutuall confidence betwixt your Majesty, and your People, and procuring and confirming the prosperity and happinesse of both.

5. It will exceedingly encrease the jealousies and feares of your people, and render their doubts of your Subjects, more probable of some force intended by some evill Councels neere your Majesty, in opposition of the Parliament, and favour of the malignant party of the Kingdome.

6. It will bereave your Parliament of that advantage, whereby they were induced to undertake this War upon your Majesties promise, that it should be managed by their advice, which cannot bee done if your Majesty contrary to their Councell, shall undertake to Order and governe it in your owne Person.

Upon which, and divers other Reasons, we have resolved, by the full and concurring agreement of both Houses, That we cannot with the duty which belongs to us, consent to any levies, or raising of Souldiers to be made by your Majesty, for this your intended expedition into *Ireland*, or to the payment of any Army, or Souldiers there ; but such as shall bee employed and governed according to our advice and direction ; and that if such Levies shall bee made by any such Commission of your Majesty, (not agreed to by both Houses of Parliament) we shall be forced to interpret the same to be raised to

the terror of your people, and disturbance of the publike peace, and hold ourselves bound by the Lawes of the Kingdome, to apply the authority of Parliament to suppress the same.

And we doe further, most humbly declare, That if your Majesty shall by ill Counsell be perswaded to goe contrary to this advice of your Parliament (which we hope your Majesty will not:) Wee doe not in that case hold our selves bound to submit to any Commissioners which your Majesty shall chuse, but doe resolve to preserve and governe the Kingdome by the Counsell and advice of your Parliament, for your Majesty, and your Posterity, according to our Allegiance, and the Law of the Land.

Wherefore we humbly pray, and advise your Majesty to desist from this your intended passage into *Ireland*, and of all preparation of Men and Arms tending thereunto and to leave the manning of that Warre to your Majesties Parliament, according to your Majesties promise, made unto us, and your Royall Commission, granted under your great Seale of *England*, by advice of both Houses; In prosecution whereof, by Gods blessing, wee have made a prosperous entrance by many defeats of the Rebels; where by they are much weakned, and disheartned, and have no probable means of subsistence if our proceedings shall not bee interrupted by this interposition of your Majesties journey, but that we may hope upon good grounds, that within a short time, without hazard of your Majesties Person, and so much dangerous confusion to your Kingdome, which must needs ensue, if you should proceed in this resolution, we shall be enabled fully to Vindicate your Majesties Right and Authority in that Kingdome, and punish those horrible and outrageous cruelties which have beene committed in the murthering and spoiling so many of your Subjects, and bring that realme to such a condition, as may bee much for the advantage of your Majesty and this Crowne, the honour of your Government and Contentment of your people; for the better and more speedy effecting whereof, wee doe againe renew our humble desires of your returne to your Parliament; And that you will please to reject all Counsells and Apprehensions which may any way derogate from the Faithfulnesse, and allegiance, which in truth, and sincerity, we have alwayes borne, and professed to your Majesty, and shall ever make good to the uttermost, with our lives and fortunes.

His



## His Maiesties Answer

To a Petition presented to H<sup>m</sup> at York, April 18. 1642. by the Earle of  
Stamford, &c. In the name of both Houses:

Concerning His Message lately sent to them, declaring His Resolution  
to goe into *Ireland*.

**W**E are so troubled and astonished to find the unexpected reception and  
misunderstanding of Our Message of the eighth of April, concerning  
Our Irish Journey, that being so much disappointed of the approbation and  
thanks we looked for to that Declaration, we have great cause to doubt, whe-  
ther it be in Our power to say or doe any thing which shall not fall within the  
like interpretation. But as we have in that Message called God to witnesse  
the sincerity of the profession of Our only Ends for the undertaking that  
Journey, so we must appeale to all Our good Subjects, and the whole world,  
whether the Reasons alleadged against that Journey be of weight to satisfie  
Our understanding, or the Counsell presented to dissuade Us from it, be full  
of that duty as is like to prevaile over Our affections.

For Our resolving of so great a Businesse without the Advice of Our  
Parliament, we must remember you how often by Our Messages wee made  
the same offer, if you should advise Us thereto: To which you never gave  
Us the least answer, but in your late Declaration told Us, That ye were not  
to be satisfied with words: so that we had reason to conceive you rather aboi-  
ded (out of regard to Our person) to give Us counsell to run that hazard,  
then that you disapproved the inclination. And what greater comfort, or se-  
curity can the Protestants of Chylendome receiue, then by seeing a Prote-  
stant King venture and engage His Person for the defence of that Profession  
and the suppression of Popery, to which wee solemnly protested in this Mes-  
sage, never to grant a Toleration upon what presence so ever, or an Abolition  
of any of the Lawes there in force against the Professors of it. And when we  
consider the great calamities, and unheard of cruelties Our poore Protestant  
Subjects in that Kingdome have undergone for the space of neere, or full six  
Moneths, the growth and increase of the strength of those barbarous Rebels,  
and the evident probability of foreign Supplies, (if they are not speedily  
suppressed) the very slow Souldiers hitherto sent from hence, That the  
Officers of severall Regiments, who have long time bene allowed enter-  
tainment from you for that Service, have not raised any Supply or Succour  
for that Kingdome; that many troops of Horse have long lien nere Chester  
untraiuposted; That the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, on whom we relied  
principally for the Conduct and managing of Affairs there, is still in this  
Kingdome, notwithstanding our earnest desire expressed that he should repaire  
to his Command; And when we consider the many and great scandals raised  
upon Our Selfe by report of the Rebels, and not sufficiently discountenanced  
here, notwithstanding so many professions of Ours; And had seene a Booke  
lately printed by the Order of the House of Commons, Entituled, A Remon-

france of others remarkable Passages concerning the Church and Kingdom of Ireland, wherein some examinations are set downe, which (how improbable or impossible soever) may make an impression in the minds of many of Our weak Subjects; And lastly, when we duly weigh the dishonour which which will perpetually lye upon this Kingdom, if full and speedy reliefe bee not dispatched thither, we could, nor cannot thinke of a better way to discharge Our duty to Almighty God, for the defence of the true Protestant Profession, or to manifest Our affection to Our three Kingdomes for their preservation, then by engaging Our Person in this Expedition, as many of Our Royall Progenitors have done, even in Forreign parts, upon causes of lesse Importance and Piety, with great Honour to themselves, and advantage to this Kingdom: And therefore we expected at least thanks for such our Inclination for the danger to Our Person; Wee conceive it necessary and worthy of a King to adventure His life to preserve His Kingdom neither can it be imagined, that we will sit still, and suffer Our Kingdomes to be lost, and Our good Protestant Subjects to be massacred, without exposing Our owne Person to the utmost hazard for their reliefe and preservation: Our life, when it was most pleasant, being nothing so precious to Us, as it is, and shall bee to governe and preserve Our people with Honour and Justice.

For any encouragement to the Rebels, because of the reports they raised; we cannot conceive that the Rebels are capable of a greater Errour, then by the presence of their Lawfull King in the head of an Army to chastise them. Besides, it will be an unspeakable advantage to them, if any reports of theirs could hinder Us from doing any thing which were fit for Us to doe, if such reports were not raised: This would quickly teach them, in this seasons Age, to prevent by such reports any other persons coming against them, whom they had formerly should be so employed.

Wee marvell that the adventurers, whose advantage was a principall Motive (not the reason before mentioned) to Us, should so much mistake Our purpose, whose Interest we conceive must be much improved by the expedition we hope (by Gods blessing) to use in this service: this being the most profitable way for the speedy Conquest of the Rebels; Their Lands are sufficient, by secured by act of Parliament.

Wee thinke not Our selfe kindly used; That the addition of so few men to your Leabies (for a Guard to Our Person in Ireland) should be thought fit for your refusal; and much more, that having used so many Cautions in that Message, both in the smallness of the number: In Our having raised none untill your Answer; In their being to be raised onely neare their place of Shipping: In their being then to be Armed, and that not till they were ready to be Shipped: In the provision, by the Oaths, that none of them should be Papists (all which appears sufficient to be free from all grounds of jealousy, of any force intended by them in opposition to the Parliament, or favour to any malignant party) any suspicion should notwithstanding be grounded upon it.

Neither can it be understood, that when we recommended the Sending of that War to you, that we intended to exclude Our selfe, or not to be concerned in your Counsels, that if we found any expedient (which in Our Conscience or understanding we thought necessary for that great worke) we might not put it in practice. Wee looke upon you as Our great Councell, whose



who'e advice We alwayes have and will (with great regard and deliberati-  
on) weigh and consider : But we looke upon Our selfe, as neither deprived of  
Our understanding, or destitute of any right we have, if there were no Par-  
liament sitting. We call'd you together by Our owne Writ and Authority  
(without which you could not have met) to give us faithfull Counsell about  
Our great Affaires: But We resigned not up Our own Interest and Free-  
dom. We never subjected Our selfe to your absolut: determination. We have  
alwayes weighed Your Counsels, as proceeding from a Body entrusted by  
us : And when We have dissentied from you, We have returned you the  
Reasons, which have prevailed with our conscience and understanding, with  
that Candor, as a Prince should use towards his Subjects; and that Affec-  
tion, which a Father can express to his children. What application hath been  
made to rectifie Our understanding by Reasons, or what Motives have beene  
given to perswade Our Affections, We leave all the world to judge : And  
then We must tell you, howsoever a Major part may bind you in matter of  
Opinion; We hold Our selfe (and We are sure the Law, and the Consti-  
tution of the Kingdom hath alwayes held the same) as free to dissent (till Our  
Reason be convinced for the generall Good) as if you delibered no Opinion.

For our Journey it selfe, The circumstances of your Petition are such, as  
We know not well what answer to returne, or whether we were best to give  
any. That part which pretends to carry reason with it, doth no way satisfie  
us : The other, which is rather Reprehension and Menace, then advice, can  
not stagger us. Our Answer therefore is, That We shall be very glad to  
have the worke of Ireland to easie as you seeme to thinke it; which did not so ap-  
peare by any thing known to us, when We sent Our Message. And though  
We will never refuse, or be unwilling to venture Our Person, for the good  
and safety of Our People; We are not so weary of Our life, as to hazard it  
impertinently. And therefore since you seeme to have received Adverti-  
sements of some late and great Successes in that Kingdome, We will stay  
some time to see the event of those, and not pursue this Resolution, till We  
have given you a second Notice. But if We finde the miserable Condition  
of Our poore Subjects of that Kingdome be not speedily relieved, We will  
(with Gods assistance) visit them with succours, as Our particular Credit  
and Interest can supply us with, if you refuse to joyn with us. And We  
doubt not but the Leavies we shall make (in which We will observe pun-  
ctually the former, and all other Cautions, as may best prevent all Feares  
and Jealousies, and to use no Power but what is Legall) will be so much to  
the satisfaction of Our Subjects, as no person will dare presume to resist Our  
Commands; and if they should, at their perill. In the meane time We hope  
Our forwardnesse so remarkable to that Service, shall be notorious to all the  
world, and that all scandals laid on us in that Businesse shall bee clearly  
wiped away.

We were so carefull that Our Journey into Ireland should not interrupt  
the proceedings of Parliament, nor deprive Our Subjects of any Acts of  
Justice, or further Acts of Grace, for the reall benefit of Our People, That we  
made a free offer of leaving such Power behinde, as should not only be nec-  
essary for the Peace and Safety of the Kingdom; but fully provide for the happy  
Progresse of the Parliament. And therefore we cannot but wonder, since such

Power hath been alwayes left here by Commission for the Government of this Kingdom, when Our Progenitors have been out of the same during the sitting of Parliaments: And since your selves desired that such a Power might be left here by us at Our last going into Scotland, what Law of the Land have you now found to Dispose with you, from submitting to such Authority, Legally derived from us, in Our absence, and to enable you to Govern this Kingdom by your own meere Authority?

For Our return towards London, we have given you so full an answer in Our late Declaration, and in Answer to your Petition presented to us at Yorke the 26 of March last, that we know not what to adde, if you will not provide for Our Security with you, nor agree to remove to another Place, where there may not be the same Danger to us. We expected that (since we have been so particular in the Causes and Grounds of Our Feares) you should have sent us word, that you had published such Declarations against future Tumults, and unlawful Assemblies, and taken such Courses for the suppressing of Seditious Sermons and Pamphlets, that Our Feares of that kinde might be laid aside, before you should presse Our Return.

To conclude, we could wish that you would (with the same strictnes & severity) weigh & examine your messages & Expressions to us, as you do those ye receive from us: For we are very confident, that if you examine Our Rights and Priviledges, by what Our Predecessors have enjoyed; and your own abuses, by the usuall Courses of your Ancestors, ye will find many expressions in this Petition warranted only by your own Authority, which indeed we forbore to take notice of, or to give answer to, lest we should be tempted (in a just indignation) to expresse a greater Passion then we are yet willing to put on. God in his good time (we hope) will so informe the hearts of all Our Subjects, that we shall recover from the mischiefe and danger of this Distemper; On whose good pleasure we will waite with all patience and humillity.

His Majesties Message to the House of Peeres. April 22. 1642.

**H**is Majesty having seen a Printed Paper, entituled, A Question answered, How Lawes are to be understood and obedience yeelded; (which Paper He sends together with this Message) thinks fit to recommend the consideration of it to His House of Peeres, that they may use all possible care and diligence for the finding out the Author, and may give directions to His learned Councell, to proceed against Him and the Publishers of it, in such a way as shall be agreeable to Law and the course of Justice, as Persons who endeavour to stir up Sedition against His Majestie; And his Majestie doubts not but they will be very sensible how much their owne particular interest (as well as the publike government of the Kingdome) is, and must be shaken, if such Licence shall be permitted to hold factious spirits to withdraw His Subjects strict obedience from the Lawes established, by such Seditious and Treasonable distinctions. And of Doctrines of this nature His Majestie doubts not but that their Lordships will publish their great dislike, it being growne into frequent Discourse, and vented in some Pulpits (by those desperate turbulent Preachers, who are the great Promoters of the distempers of this time) That humane Lawes doe not bind the Conscience; which being once beleaved, the civill Government and peace of the Kingdome will be quickly dissolved. His Majestie expects a speedy account of their Lordships exemplary Justice upon the Authors and Publishers of this Paper.

FINIS